are now given to him it will not be possible to improve the administration of the Panchayats. Therefore, with a view to condemn the action of the Government, in even now keeping the two departments under one and the same officer I have tabled this motion. In considering this motion I would request at least this section of the House to spend a thought over the matter and vote as you deem fit under the circumstances. With your leave, Sir, I may be permitted to convert this total cut into a token motion.

President.—It may be converted into a token motion.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second this token motion. Ever since the inauguration of this Council, during the last six years, this question of the separation of the Agricultural from the Panchayat Department, came up before the House in one form or other and every time the non-officials unanimously voted for immediate separation. But the Government flouted their opinion repeatedly and would never listen to our words here. There is absolute necessity for the separation. It has already been pointed out that the administration of the Panchayat Department is most inefficient; we find many things wanting there. To speak of a few, Sir, I may point out the extraordinary delay caused in the matter of check-measuring works done under the Panchayats. Then again, the Panchayat elections are conducted most unsatisfactorily and in an irresponsible fashion. Election petitions and election disputes follow immediately on every election. Again, Sir, what is to be said about great pendency of files in the Office of the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats? Tons of these files relate to Panchayat matters which have to be looked into at once. It takes years before these files are disposed. Therefore, Sir, we find that in the practical working of the Panchayat Department nothing is done properly and in time. This is not an exaggeration. Our self-governing institutions like the Panchayats, where the rural population have to manage their own affairs, are very much neglected by the Government. Instead of training the people to manage their own affairs properly and well, they are taught laziness and an inefficient way of management. The Special Finance Committee took up this matter and they settled that the Panchayats ought to be separated. We, the non-officials, held the same view and pressed the matter in this House. It was expected that the Government concerned would see that the separation was effected at once. But to our extreme surprise and disappointment we find the reverse was the effect. Therefore, Sir, during the last Budget Session the matter was mooted again with all the vigour we were capable of and then the Hon'ble the Secretary to the Diwan said that the Government

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

did not feel any necessity for the separation of the Panchayats. He said that the present officer, the Agricultural Superintendent is paid a first class officer's pay and therefore it would be unfair to deprive him of his control over the Panchayats. That he had extra time left after the management of the Agricultural Department and that he would not have sufficient work if the administration of the Panchayats is taken off, from his hands. Are these valid grounds, Sir, to reject our opinion unanimously expressed before this House? If you are paying him Rs. 600, it is not our fault. You ought not have paid him so much.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That is not the whole thing that I said.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I shall come to the 2nd part also of your answer. Let me first deal with the first part. The big salary of the officer and his extra time stand in the way. With his monthly huge salary and with all his extra time our Panchayat Department is inefficiently managed. Who asked you to pay such a huge salary to him if he has not got sufficient work in his own field? Then, No. 2. The Hon'ble Member also suggested that the appointment of two officers called Panchayat Inspectors would remedy the evil. I beg to suggest Sir, that this is not a real solution. What we really require is an able central machinery, a prompt and efficient head, to manage the affairs of all the Panchayats. The Panchayat Inspector, who may be going about inspecting, who is only something like an Overseer in the Public Works Department, serves as an instrument, through whose medium, the Head may get orders executed. Of course that is also needed and that will be an additional help, no doubt. But efficiency in the central machinery, from where all orders are issued, is what is primarily required. The duty of these Inspectors is only to see that the orders passed by the central executive, are properly carried out. But then it is the central machinery that is responsible for setting matters right everywhere. Therefore the appointment of two Panchayat Inspectors to look after the details, would not remedy the evil which is existing now in the whole system. Sir, unless and until this Panchayat Department is separated from Agriculture and put under an able officer who will be responsible for prompt and powerful action in every matter, I submit the Panchayats are rendered absolutely useless and they cease to serve the interests of the people of the rural area. By your payment of a huge sum by way of salary to the Agricultural Superintendent and by the increase in the number of subordinates, this evil can never be remedied. Therefore I once more beg

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

leave to request that the big salary paid to the Agricultural Superintendent may not be looked upon as a valid ground for the non-separation of the Department. (*Hear, hear*).

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—For the information of the House I may say that this question has been taken up for re-consideration by the Government. The financial aspect of the question is being considered and orders will be issued.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—When? The time also may be mentioned.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I cannot give the exact date. It will be done as early as possible.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Years or months?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That is all what I can say—the matter is being reconsidered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

President.—Then the motion is withdrawn.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We may not be willing to allow the Member to withdraw the motion. The sense of the House has to be taken.

President.—The question before the House is whether Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan has the leave of the House to withdraw his motion.

The motion was withdrawn with leave of the House.

Demand put and was granted.

(2) II.—Agriculture and Panchayats—7—Cocoanut Station—Rs. 400.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 400 under—II—A 7—Cocoanut Station —Casual Labour. The allotment sanctioned for the Cocoanut Station this year is Rs. 2,950, of which Rs. 300 is for expenditure on account of casual labour charges.

The posts of the 3 servants attached to the Cocoanut Station Establishment (2 servants of Rs. 10 each and one on Rs. 12) had to be abolished as a result of the orders passed by Government on the Special Finance Committee's Report. These servants were thrown out of service at the end of last year. As these servants were attending to the routine work of the Farm, the work done by them has now to be got done by casual labour. The allotment for casual labour is only Rs. 300. This amount is found insufficient to meet the expenditure and there is no scope for any transfer from other items in the allotment for Cocoanut Station.

I request that the House may be pleased to grant the additional allotment of Rs. 400.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Motion No. 1.

Mr. A. K. Kunhi Moideen.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 400—under II—Agriculture and Panchayats—7—Cocoanut Station by Re. 1.*

As the Member was then absent, the motion was considered withdrawn.

Motion No. 2.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the allotment Rs. 400—under II—Agriculture and Panchayats—7—Cocoanut Station by Re. 1.*

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—As noted on the back of the cut motion paper I have sent, this motion is tabled with a view to press upon the Government the absolute necessity for opening agricultural demonstration farms in various centres in the country and also to open seed depots wherever necessary. What we have to-day is an ornamental institution at Ollukkara where various activities are engaging the attention of the Government. A visitor to this beautiful institution will be impressed with the way in which things are done there and if he does not care to look further—he will leave the place with the impression that everything is allright with the Cochin State from the Agricultural standpoint. I would say that large sums of money that are spent in Ollukkara is simply a waste of public funds. Instead of wasting such large sums of money in this ornamental institution what is required for the State and what would be really useful for the agricultural population will be something like the opening of demonstration farms in various centres where people could very easily reach and where they could get instructions in various aspects of agriculture, and also the opening of seed depots and arrangements made there to loan out in extremely necessary cases small quantities of seeds to deserving agriculturists. Such other things will certainly go to the benefit of the agricultural population. Just now in answer to a supplementary question it was stated that leaflets are published, demonstrations are given by the Inspectors when they are on tour and these are the ways in which the agricultural population is helped by the Agricultural Department. Such things, once in the way, will certainly not be sufficient to help the agriculturists. There must be fixed farms where demonstrations will be made and which will be within the easy reach of the people. Certainly there must be more than one of such places which will be within easy reach of all the people. It is with a view to bring home to the Government the necessity for such operations that I have tabled this cut motion.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I second the motion. Ever since this House came into existence, the one persistent complaint about the Agricultural Department has been that it has not been making its existence felt by the rank and file of the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja. There has been an Agricultural Department here and that is a copy of Agricultural Departments in British India or some sister State. For one Department in British India there is one Department here. In this way a close copy of the administrative machinery of the British India or the sister States is in existence in Cochin. But the question is whether this copy has been serving a useful purpose from the point of view of the subjects in the State. I respectfully submit, Sir, that the Agricultural Department has not served the purpose for which it has come into being considering the great importance of agriculture for the very existence of our people.

The Agricultural Department, as my predecessor remarked, has maintained an ornamental farm at Ollukkara. It is really ornamental to any visitor who goes into the farm. He might refresh his mind by witnessing what is found there. But how many people actually go there? An infinitesimally small percentage of the subjects of the State has seen or known anything about Ollukkara. Most of the villagers, I mean the rural population, do not know that this Department is in existence. No propaganda work the name has been carried to them about the working of this Department. The machinery engaged in the work is not known to the people. No special knowledge is derived by the people from the Department. I was really surprised to hear the answer given by the Government to certain questions to day that propaganda has been carried on, that leaflets were circulated and instruction given by the Inspectors. From my experience I can say definitely that no propaganda has reached the people. I do not know how and why. My respectful submission to the Government therefore is that unless these Taluk agricultural farms are established in various centres of the State and practical instruction given to the people on various aspects of agriculture the Agricultural Department will be an absolute failure. Otherwise, as my predecessor remarked, the Department will mean a waste of public funds. With these words I second the motion.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—On a point of information, I should like to know how many visits the Member for Vadakkancheri has made to the Ollukkara Agricultural Farm.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Do you want the exact number? (*Laughter*).

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I am very glad to support this motion. It is a great pity that this expensive department of ours introduced in strict imitation is going on in this sterile manner for a very long time. It is not enough if you have a few specialists, entomologists, mycologists and all sorts of ologists there to work with. To the shame of the department and for the whole of the State, I should say they never had an apparatus worth the name to work at. They were paid practically for nothing for years together. That is imitation of the worst kind. Now this Cochin State is pre-eminently an agricultural country. If ever the Hon'ble Members of this House want to turn the attention of the Government to the Industries of the State, Government would turn round upon them and say that ours is only an agricultural country. You don't want an Industrial Superintendent. You are quite all right as you are. If you ask for the betterment of the agricultural conditions, then you say our Agricultural Superintendent is heavily saddled with work. Again you say he must have the Panchayat Department, for without that Department he is overpaid. This is rather a funny state of affairs. I am very glad that they are reconsidering this matter. We shall, probably shortly, have an independent Panchayat Superintendent and I think that will be the only solution to get out of this rut—an entirely woeful sort of situation. I don't think the Agricultural Superintendent would be overpaid at all if he is paid Rs. 650, under the new orders, provided we get work out of him. It is not enough if we have a central farm somewhere. That central farm happens to be far far away. Perhaps that may turn out to be of advantage to the new College to be built there. That seems to exhaust its great advantages. However, my submission is that the Hon'ble mover of this motion has hit the nail on the head when he said that without demonstration farms in the more important villages of the State the Agricultural Department cannot do any useful work. As a matter of fact we have got two or three particular branches of agriculture in the State—paddy cultivation, cocoanut and arecanut cultivations. Now I am sure that if modern methods of manuring are taught to the people for particular forms of agriculture, there would be a good rush for the manures. But before the farmer ventures in the experiment he must see by example if these manures are very good. The Department could easily demonstrate to the agriculturists all these things. I presume that, there will be very good results then. Now I am sorry to say that nowhere in the State has any plot owned by private men been really improved by modern agricultural method. (*Hear, hear*). 'That is the thing which we should endeavour. I remember, the other day, to have stated

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

in the House that I could secure in my village property for conducting such an experiment. As far as cocoanuts are concerned an acre will be sufficient. Even with such an offer, if nothing will be done, what is the use of this Department? We must get results. I distinctly remember, when the Emden was cruising these coasts, the panicky condition into which the people of the State were put to because of the fact that we could not get Burma Rice. Rice steamers were anticipating trouble from the Emden. As a matter of fact people were rushing about. Even the most prosaic and slow of our officers were buzzling about. One of the Firm came to the rescue and rice was supplied by Messrs. Walker & Co. Such state of affairs should never be in our State. My friend stated that we could have more rice than we can ever consume, if only the Department would go to the help of the ryots. Now I hope that at least this motion will open the eyes of the Government and induce them to take action. It is really good to find that there is a chance of the Panchayat Department going away from the company of Agriculture. I am afraid that even the Agricultural Department will be overworked if he proposes to do things as he should. One word more before I conclude. The recent orders of the Government have made both these Departments of Agriculture and Panchayats practically useless for the tax-payer. Another fact is that the Government went out of its way deliberately to flout the opinions of this House. This House in pursuance of the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee passed a unanimous resolution to the effect that the Panchayat Department should be separated from the Agricultural Department and the Government practically, in so many terms, promised to do so. Now Government flouted both the vote of this House and its promises for reasons not certainly known to us. I am very glad to find that quite within a few months of that, a change of policy has set in. Let us hope that it will be the forerunner of a course of action which will put things right generally. This is not the only one instance where the Report of the Special Finance Committee and the vote of the House were set at naught. Various matters have been so dealt with. The whole series of orders, as I have already observed in this House, cannot be too strongly condemned. For, what shall I say, it is very difficult to find a moderate language to express for the irresponsible, irrational manner in which the whole question has been treated.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—This question has been discussed here more than once. It is not true that the department has not gone to the help of the ryots at all. In my constituency—I come from the northernmost corner of the Cochin State—a couple of years ago the Department went to the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

assistance of the tenants. Under their supervision some tenants were assisted in having sugar cane plantations, and in some places even the paddy cultivators giving up their original mode of cultivation. Government did spend some money there. All of a sudden they stopped that, either because that it was not worth while to have this cultivation there or because they found that we were far superior to them in our own cultivation. I brought this matter to the notice of the Government some time ago and the only answer from the Hon'ble Member for Agriculture was that it was stopped. Now I simply want to bring to the notice of the present Government the method in which we were treated. We also form part ofthe Cochin State and we request that some help should be given to us also.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I beg to put in a word by way of support to the motion. It is not very much to emphasise the slackness ascribed to the Agricultural Department that I wish to speak but it is more to emphasise the slackness of the Government in not heeding to the wishes of the Special Finance Committee as well as the Members of this House. It has been repeatedly said that there is absolute necessity for separating the two departments. After all it seems Government have now opened their eyes and have begun to consider the desirability of a separation. The only point standing in their way of separation is the financial consideration. Well to my mind, that is the least consideration that ought to stand in their way, seeing that the separation is intended for the benefit of the whole agricultural population of the State—the one mainstay of the country. (*Hear, hear*). Therefore whatever may be the results of the investigation with regard to the financial aspect of the question —at the most it may come to 8 or ten thousand rupees a year— it is nothing compared with the inestimable benefits that would be derived, if there is a properly worked Agricultural Department which has now come in for a series of criticisms off and on. Now, consistent with the progress in the Agricultural Department, there ought to be consistent progress with the Panchayat Department also, and if the two are put together certainly it will be found that it is too much for one officer to attend to. In these circumstances Government should not certainly look to the financial side of the question in considering the advisability of the separation and with the hope that that separation will be an accomplished fact in the nearest future possible, I support the motion.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I also rise to support this motion and I withdraw my motion that comes next to save time. This question of Taluk farms to be established has been mooted even in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the first Council, almost six years ago. And this House pressed upon the Government to start operations in private fields belonging to private owners, if they are available, in various parts of the country, so that the ryot may by demonstration know if it is possible to adopt these methods to get proper results. It is one thing to spend money upon experiments. The ryots in Cochin will not be able to spend money on experiments nor will they adopt any method when the return is not adequate to the amount that they have to spend upon it. It must be a commercial proposition with them. They must get good return. It is not possible for us to do that, if we spend large amounts of money. Whether the ryot can spend such large amounts is the proper question. We pressed upon the Agricultural Department to go to the rural parts and to establish small farms, say an acre or so, and demonstrate your methods and show to the ryots that by adopting your methods return will be better and they will profit by it. If that cannot be done the existence of the department itself is unnecessary. It has been mentioned by the Hon'ble Member for Chittur that they knew how to cultivate sugar-cane better and that was why Government withdrew.

Now Sir, with reference to the motion it has been stated here that our wishes have been flouted. What does the Diwan say upon it? He says in his statement of 9th August 1929, "It is said that the wholesale cut was in the nature of a protest cut to make the Government open their eyes and see that the chosen representatives of the people are not to be treated with indifference and their wishes are not flouted. I am sorry to note that the attitude of the Government has not been properly understood. No tangible instance can be referred to for showing that the Government was not paying any heed to the opinions of the non-official Members of the Council". Now that same charge is repeated to-day, that the wishes of the House are slighted. But what is our wish? Agriculture and Panchayats must be separated and that these Taluk farms may be established. Is it for our benefit? It is for the benefit of the Members of this Council? Is it a reasonable request to say that the Government can come to the help of the agricultural ryot for whose benefit we are all asking the Government for this separation? That is a statement on both sides of the House. Therefore I support this motion and press upon the Government to separate the Agricultural and Panchayat Departments, as well as to introduce these Taluk farms in as many parts of the country as is possible.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I just rise to make one or two observations on this subject the merit of which has been thoroughly

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly